

## Sitka General Code Title 22 Zoning – Sign Regulations

*(Reflects revisions made by the Assembly on October 14, 2003)*

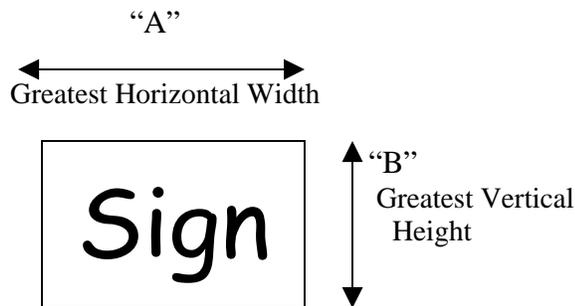
### Definitions –

#### 22.08.736 Sign.

“Sign” means any device, flag, light, figure, picture, letter, message, symbol, plaque or poster visible outside the lot on which it is located and which is designed to inform or attract the attention of the public, excluding murals or architectural designs which do not advertise a business, product or service.

#### 22.08.737 Sign area.

“Sign area” means the area of the smallest rectangle that can be drawn around all parts of the sign from the viewpoint exposing the largest surface area; excluding simple support structures which are part of the sign display shall be included in the area of the rectangle.



Sign Area = “A” x “B”

#### 22.08.738 Sign, attached.

“Attached sign” means a sign permanently attached to or mounted on a building.

#### 22.08.739 Sign face.

“Sign face” means any side of a sign, which contains advertising or graphic display, which is visible to the public.

#### 22.08.740 Sign, freestanding.

“Freestanding sign” means any sign not attached to a building.

#### 22.08.741 Sign, off-site.

“Off-site sign” means a permanent sign not located on the same lot as the business or use it is intended to serve.

#### 22.08.742 Sign, permanent.

“Permanent sign” means a sign nailed, glued, screwed or similarly fastened to foundation systems capable of holding it in position under an imposed wind load of twenty-five pounds

per square foot or the design requirements of Chapter 23 of the Building Code.

#### 22.08.743 Sign, temporary.

“Temporary sign” means a sign or advertising display intended to be displayed for a limited time not to exceed 30 days in one calendar year or for a fixed event and not permanently affixed to a structure or the ground.

#### 22.20.090 Signs.

- A. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to enhance the visual environment of the municipality by establishing standards that regulate the type, number, location, size, and lighting of signs; recognizing the private purposes of signs for the identification of businesses and promotion of products and services; and recognizing the public purposes of signs which includes considerations of traffic safety, economic and aesthetic welfare.
- B. In all cases, signs shall be located so as not to obstruct pedestrian or vehicular visibility. Maintaining visibility may require that signs be placed farther back from the property lines than otherwise allowed below.
- C. Exempt Signs. The following or displays are exempted from the regulations under this chapter:
  1. Historic site markers or plaques, gravestones, and address numbers;
  2. Signs required by law, including but not limited to official or legal notices issued and posted by any public agency or court, or traffic directional or warning signs;
  3. Plaques, tablets or inscriptions indicating the name of a building, date of erection, or other commemorative information, which are an integral part of the building structure or are attached flat to the face of the building, which are nonilluminated, and which do not exceed four square feet in surface area;
  4. Incidental signs, which shall not exceed two square feet in surface area; provided, that said size limitation shall not apply to signs providing directions, warnings or information when established and maintained by a public agency;
  5. State or federal flags;

6. Religious symbols; and
7. The flag of a commercial institution; provided no more than one flag is permitted per business premises; and further provided, the flag does not exceed twenty square feet in surface area.

D. Prohibited Signs. Except as indicated by this chapter, the following signs or displays are prohibited:

1. Portable signs including, but not limited to, **sandwich/A-frame signs and trailer mounted readerboard signs, and except that A-frame signs shall be permitted in the CBD zone;**
2. Private signs on utility poles;
3. Signs which, by reason of their size, location, movement, content, coloring or manner of illumination, may be confused with traffic control signs or signals;
4. Signs located in the public right-of-way, except where permitted in this chapter;
5. Posters, pennants, strings of lights, blinking lights, balloons, searchlights and other displays of a carnival nature; except as architectural features, or on a limited basis as seasonal decorations or on private property in the C-1 and C-2 zones;
6. **Changing message center signs, where the message changes more frequently than every three minutes.**

E. General Requirements. The following requirements shall govern all signs in the city and borough. Setback distances from property lines are zero unless noted below.

1. Signs for home businesses not exceeding two square feet in area that contain the name of the occupant and the name of the lawful home occupation are permitted.
2. "For Sale," "For Rent" and "For Lease" signs not exceeding four square feet in area are permitted if located five feet from property lines.
3. Signs identifying multiple-family dwellings, apartments, condominiums, hotels, clubs, lodges, hospitals and other public or quasi-public places are permitted; provided, they are not more

than twenty square feet in area, mounted flush against the building or more than five feet back from the front property line and ten feet back from the property line along Halibut Point Road and Sawmill Creek Road.

4. For their own use, churches and public or charitable organizations may maintain an announcement sign or bulletin board no more than twenty square feet in area.
5. Permitted signs on business buildings may be of a total combined size of no larger than **ten percent** of the area of the wall upon which they are to be mounted, **or, one hundred square feet whichever is less.** Temporary signs in windows, such as sales banners, are not included in this restriction. Signs that exceed these dimensional requirements are prohibited.
6. The assembly of the city and borough has determined that the size and type of advertising signs usual in other localities does not fit the circumstances of Sitka with its short closed type of road system. Signs designed in large size or specifically designed to attract the motoring public are unnecessary and are prohibited.
7. In all cases, **flashing, rotating, animated or intermittent lighted signs are prohibited in Sitka.** Lights that appear on the building face, in windows or elsewhere on the property shall not be placed or designed in such fashion as to distract motorists or adversely impact nearby properties.
8. Signs and marquees extending over sidewalks must not obstruct vision for the purposes of safe pedestrian or vehicle traffic and the bottom of the sign must be at least eight feet above the pedestrian way and be securely fastened and safely constructed. Marquee signs shall not be permitted for uses in residential zones. In other zones, projecting and awning signs may be used in lieu of wall signs, provided they do not project more than six feet from the supporting building

- façade and they shall not exceed the number or size permitted for wall signs in a zone. Any projection over property lines into airspace controlled by the municipality must receive written approval by the administrator.
9. **Freestanding signs**, such as advertising a business mall or individual business, are permitted with the following restrictions:
    - A. There is no minimum height requirement for the signs;
    - B. The sign may be no higher than twenty-four feet in total height;
    - C. The sign must be located on private property at least five feet off the front property line;
    - D. The sign shall not adversely impact safe pedestrian or vehicle traffic and shall not infringe upon visibility in a manner that obstructs the vision of pedestrians or motorists.
  10. Requirements for public signs shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the administrator.
  11. Sign Area Calculation.
    - A. Sign area for nonmonumental freestanding signs shall be calculated by determining the total surface area of the sign as viewed from any single vantage point, excluding support structures.
    - B. Sign area for letters or symbols painted or mounted directly on wall or monument signs shall be calculated by measuring the smallest single rectangle which will enclose the combined letters and symbols.
    - C. Sign area for signs contained entirely within a cabinet and mounted on a wall or monument shall be calculated by measuring the entire area of the cabinet.
  12. Fuel price signs shall not be included in sign area or number limitations, provided such signs do not exceed twenty square feet per street frontage.
  13. Time and temperature signs shall not exceed the maximum sign height permitted in the zone.
  14. Directional signs shall not be included in the sign area or number limitation, provided they shall not exceed six square feet in surface area and are limited to one for each entrance or exit to surface parking areas or parking structure.
  15. Sign Illumination and Glare.
    - A. All signs in the CBD, C-1, C-2, or I zone districts may be illuminated. Signs in all other zones may be indirectly illuminated signs shall be no farther away from the sign than the height of the sign;
    - B. Indirectly illuminated signs shall be arranged so that no direct rays of light are projected from such artificial source into residences or any street right-of-way.
  16. Maximum height for wall signs shall not extend above the highest exterior wall upon which the sign is located.
  17. Except as otherwise permitted by this chapter, off-premises directional signs shall not exceed four square feet in sign area.
  18. Mixed use developments in the CBD, C-1, and C-2 zones are permitted one permanent residential identification sign not exceeding thirty-two square feet in addition to the maximum sign area requirements in the zone where the mixed use development is located.
  19. Real Estate Signs. All temporary real estate signs may be single or double-faced signs:
    - A. Signs advertising an individual residential unit for sale or rent shall be limited to one sign per street frontage. The sign may not exceed eight square feet in area, and shall not exceed six feet in height. The sign shall be removed within five days after closing of the sale, lease or rental of the property.
    - B. Portable off-premises residential directional signs announcing directions to an open house at a specified residence which is offered for sale or rent shall not exceed six square feet in area for

each sign, and shall not exceed forty-two inches in height. Such signs shall be permitted only when the agent or seller is in attendance at the property for sale or rent and may be located on the right-of-way outside of vehicular and bicycle lanes.

- C. On-site commercial or industrial property for sale or rent signs shall be limited to one sign per street frontage, and shall not exceed thirty-two square feet in area. The sign shall not exceed twelve feet in height. The sign shall be removed within thirty days after closing of the sale, lease or rental of the property.
- D. On-site residential development for sale or rent signs shall be limited to two signs per development. Each sign shall not exceed thirty-two square feet in area, and shall not exceed twelve feet in height.

(Ord. 02-1683 § 4 (part), 2002.)